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B8P

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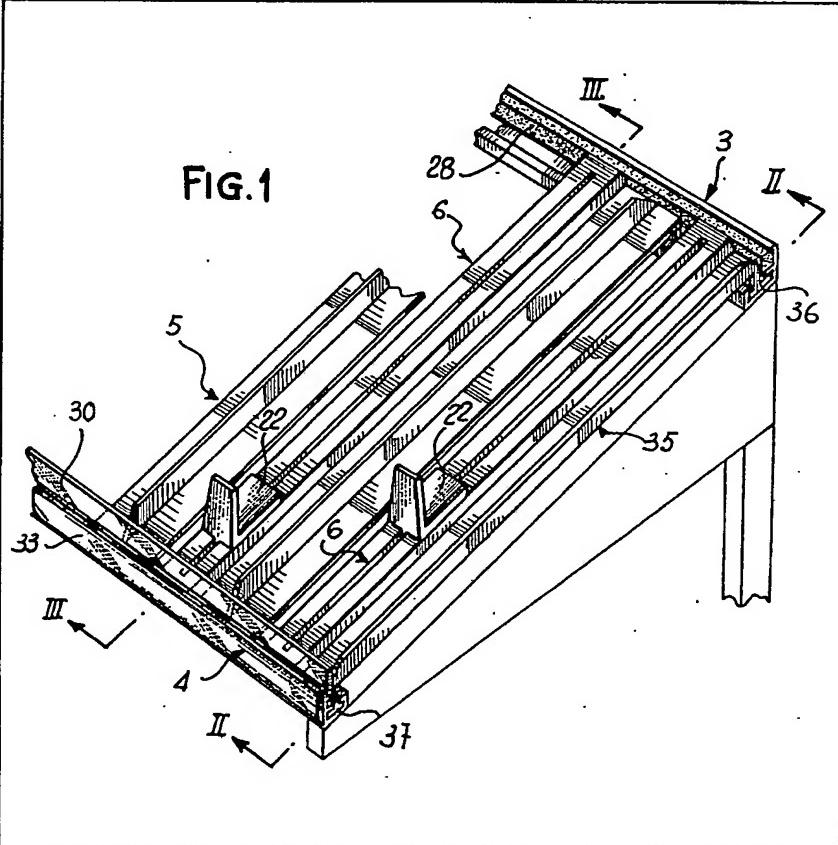
(74) Agents

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(54) Racks for dispensing articles

(57) A device for the display and distribution of parallelepipedal objects, such as packets of cigarettes, of the type comprising a frame, at least one pair of object-support rails and a pusher assembly between the or each pair of rails, wherein the frame comprises two section members which are of L-section and of which the inside surface of one of the arms provides a slideway, while each support rail comprises, at each of its ends, a member forming a slide-block, each block being engaged in a corresponding slideway. The slide block is biased by an elastic band to move the packets forwards when a leading one is removed manually.

FIG.1



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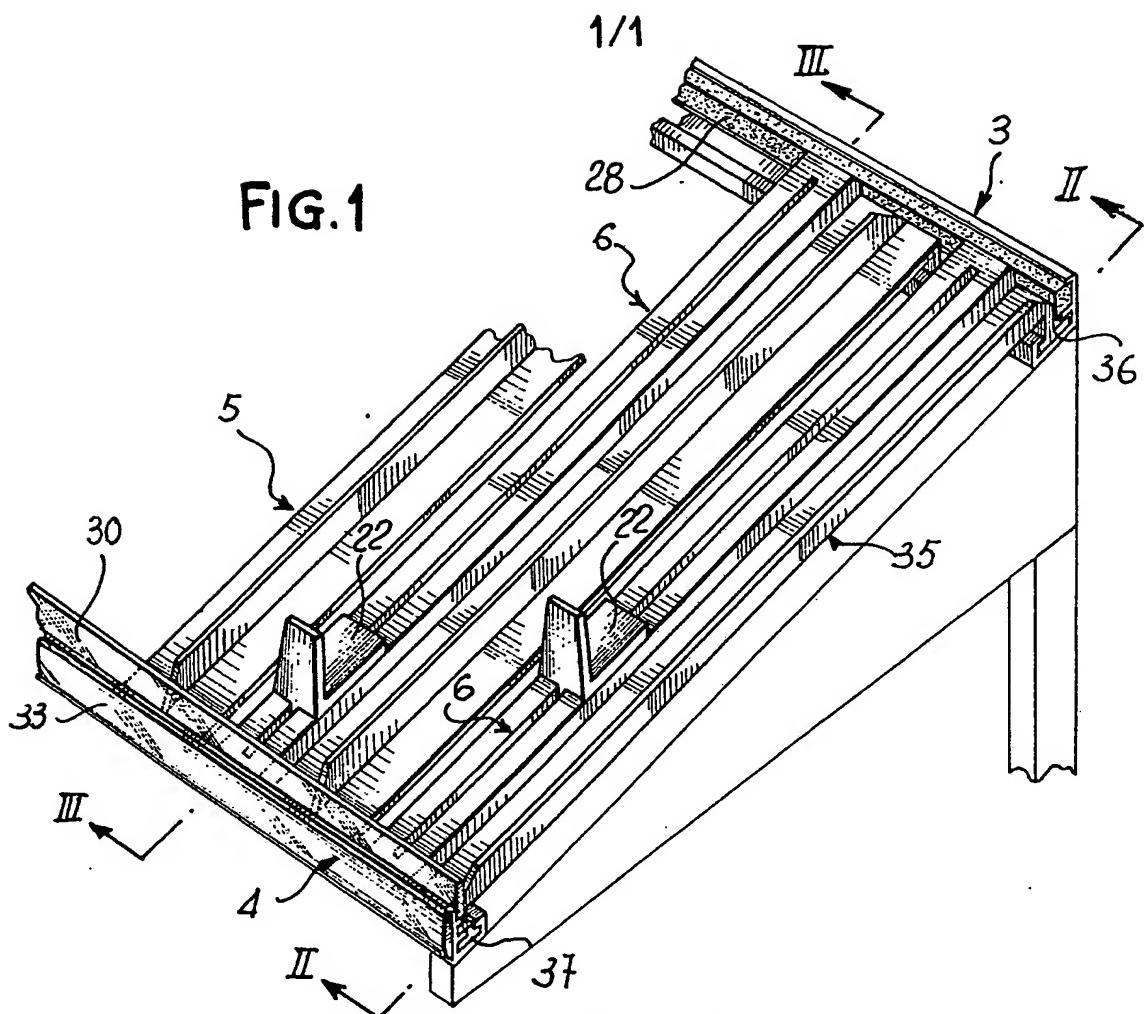


FIG.2

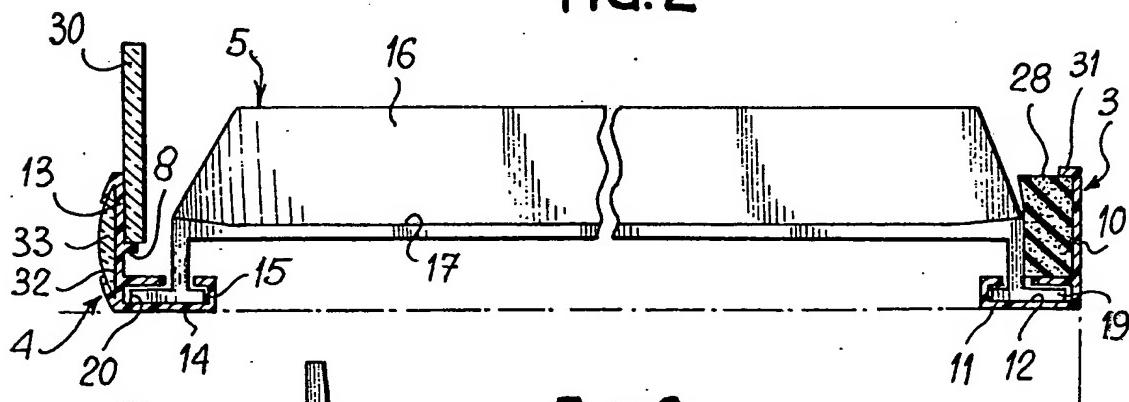
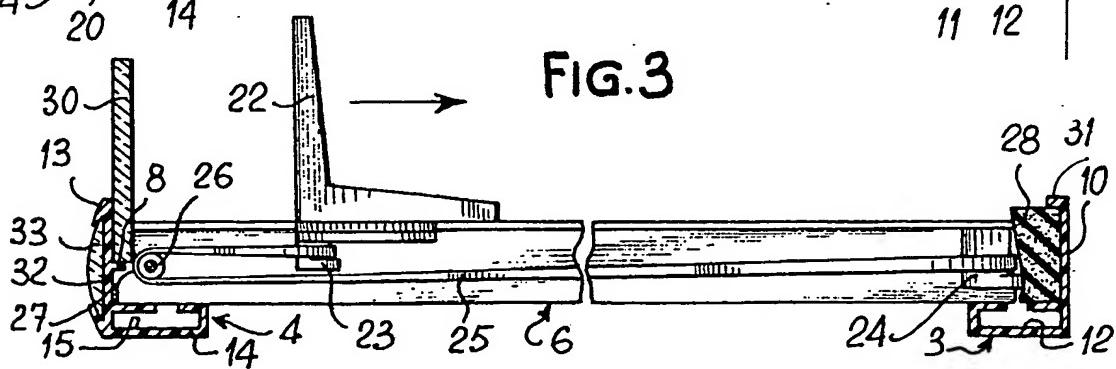


FIG.3



**SPECIFICATION****Display device for display of parallelepipedal objects**

- 5 The present invention relates to a device for the display and the distribution of parallelepipedal objects, such as packets of cigarettes. Such devices are known and are used in the equipment of shops, such as tobacconist kiosks, 10 which devices comprise a frame of a generally rectangular form, between two parallel sides of which extend cross-members or rails for supporting the objects to be displayed and distributed, and between each pair of rails a pusher assembly serves to 15 push the objects up against one edge of the frame. Such devices have the advantage of being simple, practical and causing little trouble, but nevertheless have the disadvantage of necessitating the construction of a frame of established dimensions for the 20 equipment of each shop.
- One of the objects of the present invention is to improve such devices in such a way as to facilitate the fitting together thereto and thereby to lower the cost of manufacture.
- 25 The device according to the invention is of the type comprising a frame, at least one pair of object supporting rails and a pusher assembly between the or each pair of said rails, wherein the frame comprises two section members which are of L-section and of 30 which the internal surface of one of the arms provides a slideway, while each support rail comprises, at each of its ends, a member forming a slide-block, each block being engaged in a corresponding slideway.
- 35 With this arrangement, it is particularly simple to construct the device, since it is sufficient to cut the section members to the desired length, to engage the slide-blocks in the slideways and to place the pusher assemblies in position.
- 40 According to another feature, the device includes at least one resilient pad or cushion engaged between the free arm of one of the section members and the corresponding ends of the support rails and the pusher assemblies. The assembly of these different elements is thus assured in a simple manner.
- According to one constructional feature, the free edge of the arm of the section member against which the pad is bearing includes a retaining flange for the pad.
- 50 In accordance with yet another feature, the device may include a transparent thin plate inserted between the ends of both the support rails and the pusher assemblies and the free flange of the section member opposite to that receiving the resilient pad, 55 this plate forming a retaining member and giving a pleasing appearance to the device.
- One of the section members, on the internal surface of its free arm, has a rib extending parallel to the slideway and the corresponding end of the pusher 60 assemblies has a corresponding notch.
- Furthermore, one of the section members may have on the external surface of its free arm a groove adapted to receive one or more labels.
- The invention will now be described in greater 65 detail by reference to one particular embodiment

which is given simply by way of example and which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:-

- Figure 1 is a perspective view of an improved 70 device according to the invention;
- Figure 2 is a sectional view on the line II-II of Figure 1; and
- Figure 3 is a section view on the line III-III of Figure 1.
- 75 The device which is shown in the figures is designed to form the equipment of, say, tobacconist kiosks, firstly for permitting the display of the packets of cigarettes and secondly for making the work of the salesman easier, by the distribution of the packet 80 selected by the customer being simple and convenient.
- The device is designed to be positioned or fixed on brackets 1, which are preferably movable along a rack 2 fixed to a wall.
- 85 The device comprises two section members 3 and 4, pairs of support cross-members or rails 5 and pusher assemblies which include members 6.
- The section member 3 is of generally L-section and has two arms 10 and 11, the arm 11 defining a slide- 90 way 12 on its inside face, while the free end of the arm 10 is terminated by a flange 31.
- The section member 4 is also of generally L-section and is formed of two arms 13 and 14, the arm 14 defining a slideway 15 on its inside face,
- 95 while the arm 13 is provided with a rib 8.
- On its outside surface, the arm 4 is provided with a groove 32, into which it is possible to insert one or more labels 33.
- Each cross-member or rail 5 is preferably made of 100 a plastics material and is of the form of an inverted T-section, so as to provide a guide strip 16 and two ledges 17 for supporting packets of cigarettes.
- The ends of the rails 5 have feet 19 and 20, which are designed to serve as slide-blocks capable of sliding in the slideways 12 and 15, respectively.
- As will be seen in Figure 1, a rail 35 formed by an L-shaped member is provided at each end of the device and the ends of said rail comprise feet or blocks 36 and 37 adapted to be respectively engaged 110 in the slideways 12 and 15.
- Each pusher assembly includes an inverted U-section member 6 of which the web joining the two limbs has a central longitudinal slot in which slides a block 22 having a finger 23 to which is 115 attached one of the ends of an elastic band 25, the other end of which is fixed to a post 24, the said band being guided over a spindle 26 fitted in notches 27 in the section member 4 opposite to that comprising the post 24. As a result, the block is elastically biased 120 towards the section member 4.
- For the purpose of ensuring a clamping of the assembly in the section members 3 and 4, a resilient cushion or pad 28 is provided with is inserted between the corresponding ends of both members 6 and the rails and the internal surface of the arm 10, 125 the said pad being retained by the flange 31.
- The notches 27 of the members 6 are adapted to co-operate with the rib 8 and a plate 30, preferably of transparent plastics material, is provided, which is 130 inserted between the ends of the members 6 and the

inside face of the arm 13 and of which the corresponding edge abuts against the rib 8, the said plate forming a stop device for the packets.

- It is seen that the device is very simple to construct  
5 and that it is very easy to use, the packets resting by two opposite sides on the supporting ledges 17 and being pushed by the blocks 22 against the plate 30. The packets brought up against the plate can be easily withdrawn one at a time for sale.  
10 Obviously, the invention is not limited to the embodiment as described and illustrated herein, but it will be possible to incorporate numerous modifications as regards detail without thereby departing from the scope of the invention.

#### 15 CLAIMS

1. A device for the display and distribution of parallelepipedal objects, such as packets of cigarettes, of the type comprising a frame, at least one pair of object-support rails and a pusher assembly between the or each pair of rails, wherein the frame comprises two section members which are of L-section and of which the inside surface of one of the arms provides a slideway, while each support rail comprises, at each of its ends, a member forming a slide-block, each block being engaged in a corresponding slideway.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein at least one resilient pad or cushion is engaged between the free arm of one of the section members and the corresponding ends of the support rails and the pusher assemblies.
3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the free edge of the arm of the section member against which the pad bears has a retaining flange for said pad.
4. A device according to claims 2 or 3, wherein a transparent thin plate is inserted between the ends of the support rails and the pusher assemblies and the free arm of the section member opposite to that receiving the resilient pad.
5. A device according to claim 1, wherein one of the section members, on the inside surface of its free arm, has a rib extending parallel to the slideway and the corresponding end of the pusher members has a corresponding notch.
6. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein one of the section members has on the external surface of its free arm a groove or slideway adapted to receive one or more labels.
7. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the or each pusher assembly comprises an inverted U-section member of which the web joining the two limbs has a central longitudinal slot, a block slidable in the slot and resilient means biasing the block towards one end of the member.
8. A device for the display and distribution of parallelepipedal objects substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.